

to provide the tools to strengthen our enforcement mechanisms and fight these abuses.

I thank leadership for providing a long and thoughtful examination of health care, one of the most pressing issues of our time. I look forward to reading the bill soon.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. BROWN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Democrats' latest health care plan. For the past year, my constituents in South Carolina have done everything they can to make it clear they do not want a government take-over of health care. Yet here we are again today discussing a plan that calls for more taxes, more regulations, more spending, and more Federal control over our current health care system. This legislation is not what the American people want, and it lacks a single ounce of Republican support.

Despite the overwhelming opposition, Democrats continue to push their partisan agenda and have made it clear they will use any means possible to get what they want. This is a bad bill for South Carolina and it's a bad bill for the entire country.

I join my constituents in asking the Democrats to scrap this legislation and start over on bipartisan health care reform.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, our colleagues on the other side say they want to start over, completely over. They would like to privatize Social Security. They would like to make sure that Medicare, a program that has served our seniors so well over all of these years, is also, well, doesn't just wither on the vine, as Speaker Gingrich wanted it to do, they want to ban it, end it for people under 55 years of age.

The other side would like to frame this issue as a matter of process. It is a matter of process, insurance process and them denying people claims even on their way to the operating table. This is why we are putting forth this bill to reform insurance and create health care for this entire country that they can depend upon and rely on.

It becomes a question of whose side you are on in the final analysis. Are you siding with the insurance industry and the great job that they have done raising rates all across this Nation? Or are you standing with the American people and fighting on their behalf? That is what the people of this great country of ours want to know.

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#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. ALEXANDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALEXANDER. The proponents of this health reform package are misleading the American public into believing that you can raise the baseline and reduce spending at the same time. You cannot expect to expand coverage to millions of individuals and to curb costs.

The Medicaid program already pays doctors and hospitals at levels well below those of Medicare and private insurance. And most of the time, below actual costs. Many doctors, therefore, do not accept Medicaid patients and the cuts may further discourage participation.

The most devastating cuts to the States' Federal Medicaid match have been deferred because of relief from the stimulus package. Those deferments end in December.

The health care bill before us now is a disaster waiting to happen and an expansion of an already broken program.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mrs. HALVORSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HALVORSON. Throughout this entire health care reform debate, two numbers have concerned me more than others: 130 and 60. These numbers represent the health insurance costs that small businesses are facing and the effects on those who work for small businesses. Small businesses have seen their premiums go up 130 percent over the last decade. And of all of those Americans who are uninsured, 60 percent of them are small business owners, employees, and their families.

Madam Speaker, I believe America is facing a health care crisis, and I believe that we need to act to bring down costs for regular families and hold health care and insurance companies accountable.

Too many Americans are denied care because of preexisting conditions. Too many businesses are being priced out of affordable health care. We need health care reform that addresses these issues.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. LEE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEE of New York. Within days, the House is poised to vote on a massive government takeover of health care. This trillion dollar, 2,000-page monstrosity will kill jobs, increase our debt, and raise taxes on working Americans. And it's a "pay now, buy later" approach: While the taxes start right away, the benefits don't begin until 2014.

In essence, this new entitlement program requires 10 years of new tax in-

creases and 10 years of cuts to popular programs like Medicare Advantage to pay for just 6 years of this new government expansion over health care. It's a smoke-and-mirrors approach to ram through a new entitlement we surely can't afford to pay.

The American people aren't that easily deceived. The people in my district of western New York want tangible solutions in taking real costs out. We need to start over.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. The utter hypocrisy of the debate about process is absolutely astonishing. I just learned that Speaker Hastert used the technique of a self-executing rule 113 times. Then we hear the Republicans attack reconciliation—which really means a majority of votes—and yet call for an up-or-down vote in the House.

News flash: People in the real world don't care about self-executing rules or reconciliation and don't even know what it is.

What they do care about process is the process of the insurance companies. Not the process of reconciliation, the process of rescission, which means canceling policies when you get cancer; the process of refusing a child who has asthma; the process of raising prices 39 percent, 50 percent, 60 percent, for your insurance policy.

We each have the opportunity in the next few days to be on the right or wrong side of history. We can either stand with the American people or with the insurance companies. I hope that the vast majority of us stick with the American people.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, how bad is this health bill? Oh, my goodness. Let me count the ways. It's bad on policy, raises taxes \$500 billion, decreases quality of care, decreases choices for Americans, slashes Medicare by \$500 billion. It's bad on process, with backroom, secret, shady deals made that Americans abhor.

But as a physician, I know that mostly it's bad for patients. They know it will destroy quality care. They know it will dictate to them what doctor they have to see and where they have to see him or her, and they know it will result in more money being paid by them for less care—which is all the more troubling because there are so many more positive solutions like H.R. 3400, which would get Americans covered with insurance they want, not what the government wants for them. It would solve preexisting and portability problems with insurance that they want,